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COUNTRY Colombia

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SUBJECT PCC Reaction to Expulsion of Augusto Duran

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The decision of the Central Committee of the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC) to expel Augusto Duran from the Party has met with considerable opposition from PCC rank and file members. It was because of this opposition that the Central Committee issued a booklet defending its resolution entitled "Por la Depuracion y la Defensa de los Principios del Partido Comunista-Expulsion de Augusto Duran."
2. According to source, certain statements in the booklet have caused lower-level PCC leaders to criticize PCC leaders through their spokesman Rafael Zambrano and express a desire for reorganization of the national and departmental directorates of the Party.
3. Source is of the opinion that the expulsion of Duran marks a great crisis for the PCC and that its full effect has not yet been felt. He believes that Duran will soon make documented counter charges against members of the Central Committee. Two members, Jorge E. Bayona and Jesus Villegas Palacio, were former associates of Duran. He demanded that they be included on the Central Committee elected at the Sixth National Congress in August 1949. Since they have now signed the resolution expelling Duran, it is believed by source he will make use of information of an embarrassing nature concerning them which he possesses.

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